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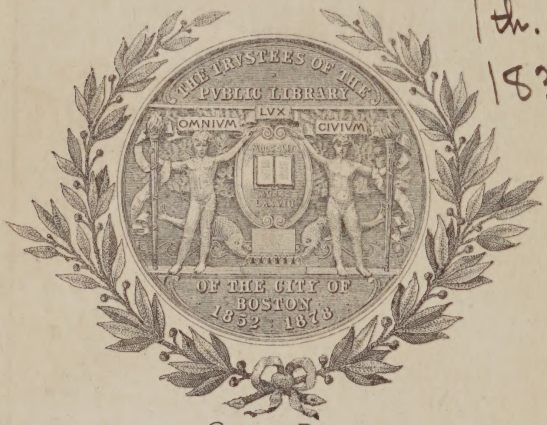

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DORCHESTER TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,

1837.

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DECEMBER, 1836.

BOSTON:
TUTTLE, WEEKS & DENNETT,
17 School Street.
1837.

CLARENDON
American Statistical
Association
Sept. 11. 1899.

DORCHESTER TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Temperance Society, was held at the Vestry of the Rev. Dr Codman's Meeting House, Friday evening, Dec. 2, 1836. The meeting was called to order by the President. A prayer was offered by Rev. Dr Codman. The President, Col. W. Baker, declined being a candidate for that office the ensuing year, accompanied with excellent remarks, adapted to the occasion.

Hon. Elijah Vose was subsequently chosen President, which appointment he accepted in a pertinent and appropriate address.

After some preliminary business the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen to fill the other Offices of the Society for the ensuing year.

Dea. Charles Howe, *Vice President.*
Dr Orin P. Bacon, *Secretary.*
Dea. Joseph Clapp, *Treasurer.*
Robert Vose, Esq. *Auditor.*

Col. J. P. Clapp,
Capt. James Pierce,
Dea. H. Humphrey,
Robert Vose, Esq.
Edward Sharp, Esq. } *Board of Assistants.*

On motion of Rev. Dr Codman, and seconded by Edward Sharp, Esq.

Voted, That the following Report, as presented by Col. Walter Baker, be published in a pamphlet form under the supervision of the Executive Committee.

REPORT.

THE Constitution of the Dorchester Temperance Society, makes it the duty of the Executive Committee, to present an annual Report. In discharging that duty, the Committee would beg leave in the first place to notice some of the doings of the past year, and afterwards offer some remarks in regard to the present state of the Temperance cause.

At the annual meeting in 1835, the Committee were instructed by the Society to invite the Rev. Mr Hall to deliver to them an Address, on the day of the simultaneous celebrations of the Temperance Societies. The invition was presented and accepted, but the ill-health of Mr Hall, prevented his fulfilling the engagement. The Committee then tendered a similar invitation to the Rev. Mr Huntoon, who assented to the request, and gave to the Society an Address, replete with interesting facts and sound arguments, and well calculated to promote the cause of Temperance. The health of Mr Hall, being afterwards restored, a second invitation was given to him, and in May, he addressed the Society in a series of remarks, impressive and fearless, which convinced us of his own virtuous zeal for temperance, and the vital importance of the cause itself.

The Norfolk County Temperance Society, held their annual meeting at Wrentham, on the 27th of April last. A delegation of two gentlemen from this Society was chosen at a previous meeting to attend, but that delegation have as yet made no report.

the aid of Omnipotence, will be a rich harvest of happiness to ourselves and our fellow men.

But how should we pursue it? I repeat persuasively, argumentatively, kindly; and by training up aright the rising generation. Although we have but few additions to our societies to cheer us, the Reform is gradually advancing. It is silently undermining the prejudices and the appetites arrayed against it. Numbers of reflecting men, who reject the pledge, feel the strength of our arguments, and adopt the cold water regimen. With our most inveterate opponents, Prudence may achieve miracles. I do not believe that we can drive them to the adoption of our principles. Coercion may restrain and intimidate, but it will never convince. All causes, whether good or bad, gather strength from persecution. It may grieve us to behold the petty dram-seller, who is denied a license, defying the laws, and venting his poison on the community, but will a prosecution benefit us? We may obtain verdicts and fines, but every fine and verdict will but create a sympathy for the offender, increase his advocates, and steel their minds against our arguments. Neither shall we advance the cause if we carry it to the polls, on improper occasions. If our opponents reject from their list of candidates, on any occasion, every friend of Temperance, then self-defence is justifiable, and we may frame exclusive tickets for ourselves; but otherwise not. It may be painful to the conscientious friends of the reform to vote for its adversaries, but if the cause will be promoted by such prudent measures, the sacrifice should be made. Political proscription cannot aid us. We have combined to suppress drunkenness, and its offspring, — not to acquire power! If those, whose happiness we seek, suspect our motives, or believe that their adoption of the Temperance pledge is the condition of our suffrages for themselves or others, they will reject the connexion. If our unpledged citizens regard us as partizans, — enemies at the ballot box — like the warriors of old, they will close up their visors and buckle on their breast plates as they advance to combat us, and no shafts of ours will ever reach their hearts.

How then shall we promote the reform? I repeat, by argument and persuasion alone, addressed to the understanding and the heart. If the cause has lost its novelty, our meetings may be less frequent, but addresses sufficiently numerous, to preserve the interest in the reform, should be delivered by gentlemen of talent and eloquence. Every day developes new facts, in relation to intemperance, and these, when portrayed in their darkest hues, by eloquent men, may be the instruments in converting thousands. The friends of temperance may show the excellence of their cause also, by their strict adherence to its pledge; by their untiring and prosperous industry; by their good citizenship, and by their peculiar exemption from those diseases which alcohol engenders. Another effectual mode of promoting a final triumph of temperance is, to train up our youth in the way they should go. In them the argument of the lecturer finds no depraved appetite to combat; no hoary headed habit to overcome; no false prejudices to vanquish, but the tale of domestic sorrows occasioned by ardent spirits, while it fills the young eye with tears, sinks deep also into the heart. The fathers are passing away, our little ones are rising up to take their places; let every friend of temperance then imbue the minds of his children and all whom he can influence, with correct principles, that thus coming generations may be delivered from the greatest scourge which afflicts humanity.

PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE

DORCHESTER TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Believing that the use of ardent spirits for persons in health is not only hurtful and injurious, and that the practice of keeping and using them in our houses is the cause of forming intemperate appetites and habits; and believing that while thus kept and used the evil of intemperance can never be prevented nor subdued—Therefore we, the subscribers, hereby agree to form ourselves into a Society for the suppression of those habits and practices which may lead to intemperance, and to that end this society shall be called the Temperance Society of Dorchester; and we hereby agree to the following articles as our

CONSTITUTION.

Article I. We agree that we will abstain from the use of distilled spirits, except as a medicine, and that we will not allow the use of them in our families, nor provide them for the entertainment of our friends, or persons in our employment; and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance the use of them in the community.

Article II. The Society shall annually meet on the day after the public Thanksgiving of each year for the

choice of a President, Vice President and Secretary, which officers shall constitute an Executive Committee for the current year, and perform the several duties usually assigned to such officers, and admonish any member who may be found violating the articles of this Constitution, and carry into effect all the votes of the Society, for promoting the best means of carrying into effect its benevolent object, and make report of the same to the Society at their Annual Meeting.

Article III. All persons agreeing and subscribing to this Constitution shall be members of the Temperance Society of Dorchester, while they shall keep in practice the duties and conditions, contained in the Articles of this Constitution and no longer, and any member shall have the right to withdraw from the Society whenever he shall signify to the Secretary his desire for the same.